10

15

20

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method in a computer system for selecting the visual arrangement of workspaces and modules in a network management console graphical user interface, the console having a first zone operable to display tools and a second zone operable to display workspaces and modules, the method comprising:

receiving a list of workspace names, each workspace name associated with a workspace;

displaying an explorer tool in the first zone, the explorer tool displaying the list of workspace names;

receiving from a user an indication that a first workspace name from the list of workspace names has been selected; and

displaying in the second zone a first workspace associated with the first workspace name.

2. A method, as defined in claim 1 further comprising:

displaying in the explorer tool a list of module names, each module name being associated with a module that is associated with the first workspace.

3. A method as defined in claim 2, further comprising:

receiving from the user an indication that a first module name from the list of module names has been selected and, in response thereto, displaying a first module associated with the first module name in the first workspace.

15

20

- 4. A method as defined in claim 1, further comprises visually indicating within the explorer tool that the first workspace name has been selected.
- 5 S. A method as defined in claim 3, wherein the list of module names is displayed as a drop-down menu extending from the selected first workspace name.
 - 6. A method as defined in claim 5, further comprises visually indicating within the explorer tool that the first module name has been selected.
 - 7. A method as defined in claim 6, wherein the explorer tool further includes a tool bar displaying an edit element, the edit element operable to display a list of explorer layout selection functions.
 - 8. A method as defined in claim 6, wherein the explorer tool further includes a tool bar and wherein the list of workspace names is displayed as an explorer drop-down menu extending from the tool bar.
 - 9. A method as defined in 8, wherein the tool bar includes a visual element that is operable to extend or contract the explorer drop-down menu.
 - 10. A method as defined in claim 3, further comprising:

 receiving from the user an indication that a second module name from the

list of module names has been selected and, in response thereto, displaying the module associated with the second module name in the first workspace.

- A method as defined in claim 10, wherein the workspace includes a visual
 element operable to control a position of the first and second modules within the workspace.
 - 12. A method as defined in claim 11, wherein the visual element comprises a scroll bar.
 - 13. A method as defined in claim 3, wherein an object pane and a task pane are displayed in the first module.
 - 14. A method as defined in claim 13, wherein a work pane is displayed in the first module.
 - 15. A method as defined in claim 13, wherein the object pane displays a list of objects.
- 20 16. A method as defined in claim 15, wherein the task pane displays a list of tasks associated with the list of objects.
 - 17. A display device having rendered thereon a network management console for

20

displaying and accessing objects from a plurality of network resources, comprising:

a second zone rendered in the console, the second zone including a selected workspace, the selected workspace including at least one module;

- a first zone rendered in the console, the first zone including an explorer

 tool, the explorer tool displaying a list of workspace names and a list of module names,
 the list of workspace names including a workspace name associated with the selected
 workspace, the list of module names including a module name associated with the at least
 one module.
- 18. A display device as defined in claim 17, wherein the explorer module further includes an explorer tool bar and wherein the list of workspace names is displayed in a drop down menu extending from the explorer tool bar.
 - 19. A display device as defined in claim 18, wherein the list of module names is displayed in a drop down menu extending from the workspace name associated with the selected workspace.
 - 20. A display device as defined in claim 19, wherein the explorer further includes a visual indicator indicating that the workspace associated with the selected workspace name is included in the second zone.
 - 21. A display device as defined in claim 20, wherein the explorer further includes a visual indicator indicating that the module associated with the at least one module name

is included in the selected workspace.

22. A display device as defined in claim 17, wherein the at least one module includes an object pane displaying a list of objects associated with the at least one module.

5

10

15

20

- 23. A display device as defined in claim 22, wherein the at least one module includes an task pane displaying a list of tasks associated with the list of objects.
- 24. A display device as defined in claim 23, wherein the at least one module includes an indicator indicating that one of the objects in the list of objects has been selected.
 - 25. A display device as defined in claim 24, wherein the at least one module includes an indicator indicating that one of the tasks in the list of tasks has been selected.
- 26. A display device as defined in claim 25, wherein the at least one module includes a work pane displaying information related to the selected task and the selected object.
 - 27. A display device as defined in claim 26, wherein the information related to the selected task and the selected object displayed in the at least one module includes a property sheet.
 - 28. A display device as defined in claim 27, wherein the information related to the selected task and the selected object displayed in the at least one module further includes

a property page.

- 29. A display device as defined in claim 23, wherein the at least one module includes an indicator indicating that two of the objects in the list of objects have been selected.
- 5 30. A display device as defined in claim 29, wherein the at least one module includes an indicator indicating that one of the tasks of the list of tasks has been selected.
 - 31. A display device as defined in claim 30, wherein the at least one module includes a work pane displaying information related to the selected task and the selected objects.
 - 32. A display device as defined in claim 30, wherein the information related to the selected task and the selected objects comprises a property page associated with a first of the two selected objects and a property page associated with a second of the two selected objects.

15

10